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| Question | **Directions (1-20) Read the following passage carefully and**  **answer the questions that follow.**  India’s far-sighted Right to Education Act is making slow progress in mainstreaming equity, in the absence of a strong political commitment in several States. The proposal to extend its scope to younger children through early childhood education is, however, wholly positive. The move suggested in the draft National Education Policy to put children three years and older in a stimulating nursery environment is a welcome logical measure. The pedagogical view is that the pre-school phase is crucial to stimulate a child’s curiosity and help her prepare for schooling at age six. The NEP proposal to infuse the existing child development schemes, which are primarily nutrition-oriented, with a learning component is in line with this thinking on holistic development. An extension of the RTE would be a big step forward, but in the absence of measures that will deepen equity, the law cannot be transformative. The Centre has to guarantee that in its totality, the Right to Education will encompass all schools bar those catering to minorities. This is necessary to achieve its moral goal of bringing quality schooling to all in the 6-14 age group; adding the early childhood section, now under the Ministry of Women and Child Development, will then be meaningful. Unfortunately, the evidence indicates that only 12.7% schools comply with the law’s requirements, and at the pace seen since RTE became law in 2010, it will take decades to achieve full coverage.  Giving all children aged three and above the right to an education can become a reality only if the state is willing to live up to its promise of devoting more financial resources. An expenditure of 6% of GDP on education could have transformed the sector, given the large wealth generated since economic **LIBERALISATION**. But far less is spent — for instance, 2.7% in 2017-18. The lost years have cost millions a brighter future, but the draft NEP provides an **OPPORTUNITY** to make amends. Bringing more children into the formal **STREAM** needs a well-thought-out road map. The Centre has to play a leadership role to ensure that States, some of which have done a poor job of implementing the RTE Act, are persuaded to implement urgent reform. The NEP’s proposal to have well-designed school complexes, where pre-primary to secondary classes will be available, is in itself an ambitious goal that will require mission-mode implementation.  **SHORTCOMINGS** in anganwadi centres must be addressed in the expansion plan. State governments will have to fill teacher vacancies and ensure that the training of recruits is aligned to scientific, child-oriented teaching methods. Education reform is **VITAL** to prepare for a future in which cutting-edge skills will be necessary for continued economic progress. Changes to the RTE Act that will prepare all children for a more productive schooling phase can help make India’s educational system morally fair and more egalitarian.  **Directions (1-2): In each of the following sentences, there is a**  **blank space. Below each such sentence, there are four options with one word each. Fill up the blank with the word that makes the sentence grammatically and contextually correct. If none of the four words is your answer, choose option (5) as your answer choice.**  The Centre has to play a leadership role to ... that States, some of which have done a poor job of implementing the RTE Act, are......to implement urgent reform. |
| Type | multiple\_choice |
| Option | Ensure persuaded |
| Option | Safeguard, Manage |
| Option | Compile, eager |
| Option | All |
| Answer | 1 |
| Solution | Ensure means make certain that (something) will occur or be the case. Persuaded means induce (someone) to do something through reasoning or argument. |
| Positive Marks | 1 |
| Negative Marks | 0.25 |